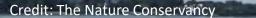




# Barnstable County

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPE COD





### Flowing Forward: Managing the Future of I/A Systems on Cape Cod

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Barnstable County Septic Utility Program

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

- WENDELL BERRY

### What is an RME?

• SUP is an RME (Responsible Management Entity)

• Can functions like a sewer utility but manages residential Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems.

• Ensures I/A systems operate efficiently, safeguarding public health and the environment.

- SUP Mission:
  - Stewardship of I/A systems.
  - Supports Cape Cod communities to achieving water quality and public health objectives.

### Services We Provide:

RME can oversee every facet of the I/A's lifecycle:

- Permitting & Installation: ensure systems meet regulatory & environmental standards
- <u>Operation & Monitoring:</u> Continuous oversight to guarantee systems function at their best
- Long-Term Care: Providing maintenance & support to extend the system's life & effectiveness.
- <u>Education</u>: to the public, installers & operators.



### What Can the SUP do for a town?

- Cost Distribution and Regulatory Compliance:
  - Can coordinate and manage multiple I/A system installations through a competitive bidding process.
  - Instead of individual homeowners navigating the procurement process alone, we can pool resources and solicit bids for multiple installations simultaneously.
  - This approach not only drives down costs through economies of scale but also ensures consistent quality and adherence to regulatory standards.

### What Can the SUP do for a town?

- Operation and Management (O/M) of Systems:
  - Can offer comprehensive solutions for the ongoing operation and management of I/A systems
  - By bidding for an operator to oversee a series of systems, we streamline administrative tasks for homeowners and operators while ensuring consistent maintenance standards.
  - Under this model, the SUP assumes responsibility for contracting with operators, simplifying payment processes, and providing homeowners with a single point of contact for their system needs.

### What Can the SUP do for a town?

#### • Unbiased Third-Party Oversight:

- Can serve as an impartial third party, conducting sampling and inspections to verify system performance and regulatory compliance.
- This unbiased oversight helps instill confidence in residents and regulatory agencies alike, fostering transparency and accountability throughout the process.

#### • Education:

- Operators/Installers: Training and Certification
- Homeowners/Public: Awareness and Information

### Some other things we do:

#### • I/A Database:

- Internet accessible database, enabling operators to submit maintenance & sampling reports online.
- Allows Boards of Health and MassDEP to oversee I/A system effectiveness and ensure maintenance contracts are in effect.

#### • Facilitate Recommend Technology Panel (RTP):

- Comprised of experts in the field without affiliations to any specific technology.
- Data from the I/A database and reputable external sources for non-MA systems.
- Create a performance-based list of I/As for towns (August 2024).
- Routinely update list.

### Cape Cod AquiFund

• Provides low-interest betterment loans to Cape Cod homeowners faced with the cost of repairing/replacing failed septic systems, upgrading to alternative septic system technologies, as well as connecting to town sewer. (0-4% / max 20-year repayment term)

• Covers: all work directly relating to the repair, upgrade, or installation of a septic system or town sewer connection. This includes engineering costs and installation costs.

• Incidental work associated with the project may also be covered. Examples: Loaming and seeding after work completion, repair to a driveway damaged during construction, required pluming changes, well relocation.

### A Vital Piece of the Puzzle

- Essential to see each as a critical component in a broader strategy to tackle water quality issues: sewers, I/A systems, Eco-sanitation, bogs/wetlands, ???
- By partnering with the SUP, a town can harness the collective resources and expertise of our RME to advance its CWMP goals. Whether through streamlined installations, centralized O/M services, impartial oversight or education, we can support Cape Cod in safeguarding its environmental resources and public health for generations to come.

## Thank You!

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